

QUAINT AND DAINTY PARTY FROCKS FOR CHILDREN

Best Models Are Characterized by Cobwebby Fineness of Material and Delicate Hand Embroidery—Many Pretty "Won't Wash" Frocks.

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINER.

THE grownups may think that their holiday clothes and festivities are important, but the children know better. The Christmas season belongs to the little people and, while the small girl's party frocks may not be so many nor so expensive as those of her big sister, she takes them very seriously and has her own heart burnings and vanities.

A wee woman of 6 years was watching her mother buy a party frock in one of the best children's outfitting establishments last week. She wasn't helping to buy it, for the mother evidently considered herself fully competent to conduct the affair without help, so the youngster wound her slim legs around the legs of the high chair on which she was perched and looked with tempered interest at the practical little frocks the saleswoman was showing. Only once did she hint at her secret ambition.

"Dorothy's got one that won't wash," she said casually, quite casually.

The sensible mother, who was insisting upon sturdy laundering qualities, met the implied suggestion with flat disapproval.

"It's very foolish for Dorothy to have it," she answered cheerfully but finally, and the pocket size daughter of Eve lapsed into tepid interest with a long drawn sigh.

The mother was right, absolutely right. That was what made one sympathize so thoroughly with the child. Grownups are at their worst when they have reason entirely upon their side. To yearn for a party frock that won't wash and by all the laws of reason and common sense to be condemned to party frocks that will wash—of such stuff is childish tragedy made.

And all this probably had something to do with the fact that most of the party frocks chosen for the sketches on this page were of the kind Dorothy had. They wouldn't wash, and the one among them warranted to launder well was only a compromise, for it probably wouldn't launder long.

But they were such delectable little frocks, so dainty and simple and childish; more dainty and simple and childish in air than most of the more practical tub frocks shown; for the latter, in many cases, ran to overelaboration in trimming of lace and embroidery.

There is less of this overelaboration and cheap showiness in all departments of children's dress than there used to be. The standard in taste is higher and the necessity of simplicity, expensive or otherwise, in children's clothes, if they are to be truly successful, is better understood. The costliest of child frocks must assume a demure air and find excuse for its price in cobwebby fineness of material, delicate hand embroidery, narrow lines of real Valenciennes.

One of the quaintest and daintiest of the models shown by a well-known house is illustrated here. Its foundation is a firm but fine wash net and on this are set tiny overlapping frills of finest linen, producing an effect vaguely suggestive of the early Victorian ideas being exploited in the latest party frocks for older sisters.

Not until one examines the model more closely does the price seem justifiable; but every one of the narrow frills has its minute scallops embroidered by hand and the little dots above the scallops are also hand embroidered, while every stitch put into the frock is done by hand. Something of the same effect might be secured with very dainty, by the yard embroidery, and the foundation might be of fine linen or batiste or mull instead of net.

The prettiest of the "won't wash" frocks are made of chiffon in delicate pink or blue or white and have no trimmings beyond fine cordings, self frills or ruffles, and usually a few little flowerets. In chiffon cloth these frocks are more durable than they sound, more durable indeed than wash net or some of the mulls, and there are models of this type that actually will wash when one separates them from their foundations of soft satin or crepe or net, while all chiffon cloth cleans admirably.

Two models of this class are pictured in the Christmas group and neither should be difficult of achievement by the home dressmaker, since material color (a delicate creamy pink) and very neat plain sewing are the essentials. As has been said before, the drossy child frock of fine muslin or linen usually calls for hand embroidery, inset lace, etc.; but these chiffon frocks need only hand shirring and cording, and any who sews at all well should be competent to accomplish that. Little tuckers of the finest cream net, stirred

on a cord, are usually set inside the neck of the chiffon frock.

The long waisted frock with one flounce, the frock with waist only a little longer and several flounces, and the frock of normal waist with full skirt trimmed in tiny flounces are the usual lines for frocks of chiffon or silk. Linon and muslin models also follow these lines, but among these there are still many straight Russian smock designs.

Silk party frocks are taken by many fastidious mothers and even at their best they are never so childish looking as the chiffon or muslin frocks, but this winter the designers have been turning out some rather fascinating child party frocks of taffeta, figured in the smallest of sprigs and made up on much the same lines as the washable ones. One of these sprigged silk models has all its narrow scalloped ruffles bound narrowly with black velvet, and little knots of baby black velvet ribbon are on the shoulders and at the waist line.

Another use of silk is seen in certain frocks which have upper parts made of the long waist of the pink chiffon frocks in our group, but whose short skirts are of pink taffeta, cut full or circular and flaring out crisply.

Silk crepe frocks with smocking for their only trimming are pretty and childish and are usually made so that they can be tubbed, though many mothers prefer to have them cleaned. Smocking is still popular for frocks of sheer linen too, and for very small folk such frocks of linen, fine cotton voile or cotton crepe with the smocking cleverly introduced in white or delicate color are much used for festive wear.

The French have a great liking for child dresses of fine cotton crepe embroidered by hand in color, and have sent over many models of this sort this season, but they do not meet with great favor here. The French girle, a wide folded model of taffeta with narrow, fine platings of the silk edging both top and bottom and no bow, is used on many of the winter frocks.

France is responsible too for most of the straight Russian frocks in the wide broadcloth or light colored velvet, embroidered slightly but boldly and sometimes trimmed with narrow fur edging. The white cloth models, though far from practical, are often smart looking and childish in air, and the one sketched for this page, with its embroidery of gold color silk and its girle to match the embroidery, was particularly likable.



Little girls' party frocks of crepe de chine, net and mull, and a white linen suit for a small boy.

Unique Combinations in Jewelry Attract the Christmas Shopper

JEWELS for the holiday shoppers are already displayed. Among the novelties are flower or boutonniere holders which are the latest thing in the way of pins or brooches.

They are designed to hold the miniature bouquets now worn coquettishly on the left shoulder or to retain the collar rose in place. They are useful, too, for pinning violets on the muff or the gardenia on the fur neckpiece; and then, again, they may be used in the evening when a corsage bouquet is worn. They will keep the rosebud in place on the hip or among the frounces of one's dance frock, and their usefulness will be highly appreciated when they fasten the long stemmed American Beauty or stiff stalked chrysanthemums securely to the motor coat at the football game.

This pin of multifarious duties is, with all its utilitarianism, an ornamental jewel, and it can be found in all the correct materials for the finest ornaments: platinum, diamond, emerald, or set with emerald; gold, sprinkled with amethysts, topazes, opals or garnets; and silver, mounted with the opaque stones, jade, coral, turquoise, jasper or lapis-lazuli.

But whatever material and gem are chosen the construction is invariably light and airy, with openwork spacings and very small gems. Plugs are much used for these flower pins, and a fine example of their dainty lightness is shown in one of platinum wire.

This brooch is made, like all these flower holders, with a hump in its back. The pin itself is straight and strong, and over it the strip of gem set platinum rises in a curve to accommodate the flower stem, which are thus held firmly in position. Pearls and square cut sapphires are mounted in its lacy mesh of finest platinum wire.

Another brooch novelty that any woman would be delighted to receive as a holiday gift this year is in the shape of the letter V, and is to be used at the low cut point on the décolleté bodice. Ovals and diamonds are an extremely modish gem combination, and one of these V pins has its two converging links outlined in tiny diamonds and filled in with little oblong pieces of faced onyx.

Fashion has decreed that all manner of girles, belts and wide sashes shall be worn this winter, and the jeweler offers an especially enticing present for the young woman an endless and varied assortment of sash buckles and girle fasteners. The buckles are made with a secret pin for holding the sash in place, while through the buckle section the ends are drawn and tied. Such a buckle has an enameled front of silver or gem set gold, and if it is desired to make the gift doubly welcome a sash matching the gems or enamel in color should accompany the buckle.

The new girle fasteners are huge dagger shaped brooches like the old Scotch and Irish shawl pins. Here is one with topazes and dark brown enamel in a mounting of engraved silver. Another has amethysts in graduated sizes in a row from its long slim point to the head, which is an inch across.

Hatpins are made in many new guises, and the fact that this year they come in pairs in fascinating little satin lined boxes adds to their attractiveness as holiday gifts. The most popular shapes and sizes are the short pinned, small headed hatpins in gold, plain, gem set or trimmed with applied gold.

The undecorated hatpins are modeled into graceful shapes, with modulated contours, or are faceted until they glitter and gleam like great gems. When the applique work is used the rounded shapes are chosen and the surface is covered with fine gold filigree and studded with minute gold balls. Gems are set in the tops of the pinheads in the plain gold, silver or filigree, and a charming effect is gained by the use of

applied gold wire in the vermeil pattern between tiny brilliants.

Now that bracelets have come into vogue again there are shown many new models with foremost among them armlets for wear above the elbow. They are in the old snake formations, with or without gem eyed snake heads, and they come in pairs in the form of wide gem studded bands. Sapphires, emeralds or rubies, cut in cabochon in high, closed settings, are alternated with diamonds or pearls on armlets of carved and hand wrought gold.

Glove bracelets are another innovation of the season, and they promise to be an exceptionally popular Christmas gift. They are made in the old gate pattern, or jointed and fastened with a clasp. Worn over the glove and at its upper edge, they hold the top of the lower glove in place on the arm. They are a great comfort to the wearer as they prevent the glove from slipping down into wrinkles around the wrist, and they do away entirely with that constant irritating, pulling and tugging at the top of the glove which have hitherto been necessary to keep the glove smooth and comfortable.

Another boon that both dancers and opera-goers will appreciate are the new buckles and slipper fasteners. These little gemmed accessories add much to the appearance of the foot, and the tango fasteners are especially convenient for the dancer as a means of keeping the slipper snug around the instep. Brilliants are the favorite gem with which these buckles are set, and for day wear handsome cut steel is paramount.

The high back comb, leading novelty among hair ornaments, has won great favor. This fan shaped, four pronged jewel has an air of daring individuality about it that imparts to the coiffure a certain dash and freedom. The hair is drawn smooth and high, away from the brow as well as from the nape of the neck, and the ears are once more exposed to view.

In composition these combs range from emerald set platinum to turquoise shell studded with rhinestones. All are pretty and becoming, and their variety of material makes them appropriate for wear morning, afternoon and evening.

There are new side combs, narrow, high barrettes, and an endless array of fancy pins with which to finish off the coiffure, but the high back comb imparts just the right touch and leads all the hair ornaments as a holiday gift.

There is no excuse for sameness

in wrapping this year's Christmas presents. Baskets, bags, cases, folders and boxes can either be bought or made which give a personal touch to the gift and are attractive in themselves.

What appears to be a Christmas booklet is in reality a folder for a pair of gloves, a few handkerchiefs or any

With the return of the high coil to fashion and the exposing of the ears to view there comes also the necessity of using the earrings to enhance and enframe the face. The new little delicate gemmed drops come with a finely wrought necklace to match; or they may be had with rings for the hair or a fillet to correspond in design and material.

Necklaces are also matched by brooches, bracelets with finger rings, and an acceptable Christmas gift is a pair of gem set bracelets, one for each arm, one set with one row of diamonds between the two rows of pearls and the other with one row of pearls between two rows of diamonds. The gems are massed together, the only part of the mounting seen being the bordering edge of a very fine platinum wire.

Tango sets of buckle and slipper fastenings have become popular, but very much fewer are the sets, not for the shoe but for the hair. These are made up of comb, pin and barrette. The combs are the high curved combs for the back of the hair; the pins are fancy little affairs, and the barrettes are fan shaped, narrow and high. Pairs of two pronged pins are especially new. They are made of gold, set with the modish emerald, topaz or amethyst, or they are formed of diamond mounted platinum.

Little airy bouquet pins and sash buckles are among the latest of jewelry items, and those becoming neckbands of velvet may now be had in sets with matching wristlets. The necklets are mounted with gemmed slides, and the wristbands with gemmed slides.

Even watches have not missed being coupled with other jewels, and the so-called watch sets are composed of an enameled watch that may be used as a pendant, chateleine or wrist watch, with the chain, brooch and bracelet necessary to turn it from one style of jewel into the other.

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Pretty New Flowers Add to Xmas Cheer

RED and green are the accepted Christmas colors; red flowers and red berries, because they are bright and warm and cheerful; bouquets of green foliage, a reminder of the summer fields and groves.

There will be red roses this Christmas, many of them new varieties, such as the world never saw before during the Christmas holidays. The florists will offer that rich, velvety, deep crimson rose, the Hadley, which was a prize winner at the National Flower Show in New York last spring, and is an American rose developed by Alexander Montgomery, Jr., of Hadley, Mass. Another American rose originating with John Cook of Baltimore, Md., a large, beautiful red rose, named Francis Scott Key, after the author of "The Star Spangled Banner." There is also a new bright red French rose, another prize winner at the autumn flower shows, called Prince d'Artois.

With these there will be the Richmond, the favorite crimson American rose for many years, and that old time fragrant, red rose, the American Beauty, which still quenches it over all roses, and is more beautiful this year than ever before. If your taste is for a rose of some other color than red there is a wide choice among the roses, both new and old.

There will be in the flower shops that

other small, flat gift. It is easily made by cutting an oblong or square of heavy paper, so that when folded in half the gift will be concealed and there will be a generous margin all around. On the inside paste a white layer of paper and on the outside a gay, Christmaslike decoration. Decide on the best position for the gift on the inner half, cut a slit on each side, slip through narrow ribbons and tie the gift securely in place. Fasten the folder together with bands of paper at right angles with Christmas seals where the bands cross each other.

Another form of holder, also suitable for flat gifts, can be made of any size and takes the form of an envelope. Two layers of paper should be used, one serving for the lining of the other. A little sprinkling of sachet powder adds to the daintiness of this container. After the present is within, seal the envelope by placing a star of gold paper or some other Christmas design on the flap.

Mailing tubes of various sizes make good containers for gifts which are of suitable proportions. The outside of the tube is covered with fancy paper and the gift held in place by ribbons. Children like to have presents come in this form, as the tubes can be made to simulate a snapping mottle by enclosing the entire tube in a wrapping of bright colored crepe paper and gathering the

ends which project beyond the tube. By cutting the superfluous paper in a deep fringe, and pasting a picture of Santa Claus on the middle of the tube a stunning container for a doll or other toy can be made at small expense of time or money.

Split market baskets come in a 10 cent size and can be stained any color appropriate to the season or the gift. If left in natural colors, a spray of holly and a bow of red ribbon should ornament the handle. The baskets are made of the right size to hold a pair of silk stockings, two small bottles of perfume or some little trinket for a child. A slightly larger basket will hold two glasses of jelly in gay paper wrappings or a package of home made candy. The shape of these old fashioned baskets is so attractive as to make them worth keeping after their contents have disappeared.

Another holder for a glass of jelly, intended for an invalid, takes the form of a gayly painted flower pot in which the jelly glass exactly fits. A crinkly crepe paper circle is fitted in at the top of the tube to represent earth, and a spray of artificial holly appears to grow in the pot. The finding of the glass of jelly will probably be a surprise for the invalid receiving the gift. The flower pot will make a pretty jardiniere for the invalid's room.

There are also corsage flowers. The Cattleya orchids with their lavender petals and purple lips are the most strangely beautiful, aristocratic and expensive of all flowers. The new Spencer varieties of sweet peas are the prettiest of the world ever has seen. They are of all colors from purest white to deepest crimson and are in great demand for Christmas.

The violet is an old time favorite for the corsage, but less popular now than in the years past. The newer, single variety, Princess of Wales, is the prettiest of all violets, but the single variety, Governor Herrick is much used. In double violets there are only the old varieties, the purple Marie Louise and

the lighter purple Lady Home Campbell. There will be also gardenias, old favorites for the corsage and for boutonniere, a flower with long keeping qualities, but never, since its color is white, a distinctively Christmas bloom.

Besides the flowers there will be this Christmas a plentiful supply of holly bouquets with their red berries clustered among their glistening green leaves; the leafless twigs of brilliant red winterberries; the mistletoe, not from England now, but from the South; boxwood sprays, ivy, spruce and laurel boughs, pine plumes from Florida and hardy ferns from New England. Many of these berries and evergreen boughs and sprays are used in making Christmas wreaths and festooning. The only novelty which will be seen this Christmas in berried boughs will be the leafless twigs of waxy, greenish white New England bayberries, from which our forebears made bayberry tallow.

There will be nothing new in flowering and berried plants this Christmas. Red flowered ranunculus will not be as plentiful as usual this season, because the ranunculus, which the florists bring into bloom in their greenhouses, are all raised in Belgium. There will, however, be the usual supply of poinsettia plants, as well as their cut blooms, the old time camellias with their bright red rosette shaped blooms, begonias covered with waxy red flowers and red flowered carnation plants. In other colors the heaths with their many tiny, bell shaped white or delicate pink blooms will be favorites, and there will be blooming plants of several kinds of orchids for those with heavy purses.

Among the red berried plants the most beautiful of all will be the holly tree and aucubas from Holland; shapely ardisias, brilliant fruited Christmas peppers the old time favorite Jerusalem cherry trees, atlathe orange, pomegranate, lemon trees, their larger fruits of dark and light yellow, and those pretty little trailing plants, the partridge berries, grown in glass berry bowls—raised in America.

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Among the red berried plants the most beautiful of all will be the holly tree and aucubas from Holland; shapely ardisias, brilliant fruited Christmas peppers the old time favorite Jerusalem cherry trees, atlathe orange, pomegranate, lemon trees, their larger fruits of dark and light yellow, and those pretty little trailing plants, the partridge berries, grown in glass berry bowls—raised in America.

There are also corsage flowers. The Cattleya orchids with their lavender petals and purple lips are the most strangely beautiful, aristocratic and expensive of all flowers. The new Spencer varieties of sweet peas are the prettiest of the world ever has seen. They are of all colors from purest white to deepest crimson and are in great demand for Christmas.

The violet is an old time favorite for the corsage, but less popular now than in the years past. The newer, single variety, Princess of Wales, is the prettiest of all violets, but the single variety, Governor Herrick is much used. In double violets there are only the old varieties, the purple Marie Louise and

the lighter purple Lady Home Campbell. There will be also gardenias, old favorites for the corsage and for boutonniere, a flower with long keeping qualities, but never, since its color is white, a distinctively Christmas bloom.

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